

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to a telephone conversation between Examiner Vy and the undersigned, and the Decision on Appeal mailed on February 12, 2009 and which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 6-14 remain in this application, where claims 1 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 12 is independent.

By means of the present amendment, claims 2-4 and 6-14 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--, and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Such amendments to claims 2-4 and 6-14 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.


Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended

during the telephone conference call with the undersigned on March 18, 2009. In accordance with the discussion during that telephone conference call, Applicant has amended independent claim 12 to include the features of claims 1 and 5, which have been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that the independent claim 12, as amended, is allowable. In additions, claims 2-4, 6-11 and 13-14 are also allowable at least based on their dependence from independent claim 12.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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